

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KABUL 02876 270441Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 /015 W
-----270624Z 006245 /12

R 270330Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2408

UNCLAS KABUL 2876

FOR NEA/PAB, LANDE FROM CURRAN

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OGEN, AF
SUBJ: PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE SPORTS PROGRAM - BASKETBALL

1. DR. LEONARD MILTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE SPORTS COMMITTEE, HAS WRITTEN WAHID ETEMADI, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AFGHAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, SUGGESTING THAT A U.S. COLLEGE BASKETBALL TEAM VISIT AFGHANISTAN DURING THE SUMMER OF 1977. DR. MILTON'S LETTER STATED THAT IF THE GOVT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) COULD ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL LOCAL COSTS, THE PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE SPORTS COMMITTEE WOULD BE ABLE TO COVER INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSES.

2. ETEMADI HAS TOLD US HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HOST SUCH A VISIT AND SAID THAT THE GOA WILL PAY ALL LOCAL COSTS.

3. THE BEST TIME FOR SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE DURING THE "JESHYN" (NATIONAL DAY) CELEBRATIONS IN KABUL IN JULY. IDEALLY, THE AMERICAN TEAM WOULD ARRIVE IN KABUL ON JULY 15 OR 16 AND THEN BE AVAILABLE TO PLAY EXHIBITION MATCHES AND PARTICIPATE IN CLINICS AND REPRESENTATIONAL EVENTS DURING THE HOLIDAY JULY 17 - JULY 20.

4. DR. MILTON INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM THE AFGHANS BY APRIL 20. HIS LETTER MAY HAVE BEEN DELAYED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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THE UNCERTAIN MAIL SERVICE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD WITH WHICH YOU ARE FAMILIAR.

5. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD CONTACT DR. MILTON, ADVISE HIM OF THE INTEREST OF THE GOA IN THE VISIT OF AN AMERICAN BASKETBALL TEAM, AND STRESS THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING THE TEAM HERE DURING JESHYN. NOT ONLY WOULD THE AFGHANS

BE FLATTERED BY SUCH A GESTURE, BUT THE TEAM WOULD GE
MAXIMUM PUBLICITY AND ATTENTION.

6. IF DR. MILTON CONFIRMS THE AVAILABILITY OF A TEAM WITHIN
THIS TIME FRAME, WE WILL PURSUE THE ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
INVOLVED WITH THE VISIT WITH THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.

7. REGARDS.
ELIOT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KABUL02876
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770146-0557
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770415/aaaaamll.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8256c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2682354
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE SPORTS PROGRAM - BASKETBALL
TAGS: OGEN, AF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8256c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009